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REMARKS

In response to the Final Office Action of 02/12/2008, the applicant has filed Request for Continued Examination (RCE).

On page 2 of the Final Office Action, claims 15, 16, 25, 26, and 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite.

On page 3 of the Final Office Action, claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 8, 11, 12, 19, 20, 23, 24, and 27-30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by *Nishiberi* (US Patent No. 5,984,300).

On page 6 of the Final Office Action, claims 13-18, 25 and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by *Tamura* (US Patent No. 6,469,811).

On page 4 of the Office Action, it was indicated that claims 21 and 22 are allowable if rewritten in independent form.

In view of the rejections, claims 1, 11, 13, 15, 16, 29, and 30 have been amended to clarify the features of the invention.

The applicants respectfully traverse the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, and 35 U.S.C. 102(b). With the amendments on claims 1, 11, 13, 15, 16, 29, and 30, the application should be in condition for allowance for the reason explained below.

As recited in amended claim 1, a medium tray of the invention is attachable to an image recording apparatus for feeding a record medium one by one and recording an image on the record medium.

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The medium tray comprises a depository in which a plurality of the record media is loaded such that front and rear portions of the record media have different angles with respect to a feeding direction of the record media when the record media are in the depository; and a folding member provided at a rear portion of the depository for folding the record media so that the rear portions of the record media are folded toward the image recording apparatus with front side surfaces of the record media inward.

Further, the depository including a medium support for placing the front portions of the record media and a rear guide extending upwardly from a rear end of the medium support for guiding the rear portions of the record media upwardly. The medium support protrudes outside of the image recording apparatus from a side of the image recording apparatus to be exposed. The folding member is disposed at an upper portion of the rear guide, and the folding member includes a guide member for guiding the record media toward the image recording apparatus and pressing from above backside surfaces facing upward of the record media thus folded.

In particular, in the medium tray of the invention recited in claim 1, the folding member includes the guide member for guiding the record media toward the image recording apparatus and pressing from above backside surfaces facing upward of the record media thus folded.

Nishiberi has disclosed a sub tray of a sheet tray arranged so as to be held by a locking mechanism in any one of at least three rotational positions relative to a main tray including an opened position, a stored position and an intermediate position.

(Abstract)

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In FIG. 1 in *Nishiberi*, reference numeral 1 denotes a main tray, provided with embossing 1A on either side for attachment to the main body (or automatic feeding device). Reference numeral 2 denotes a sub tray, and reference numeral 3 denotes a locking lever. The Figure illustrates the sub tray 2 being maintained in an opened position by means of the later-described locking mechanism. (col. 3, lines 20-26)

In FIG. 2 in *Nishiberi*, reference numeral 30 denotes a roller for feeding the cut sheet 9 serving as the recording sheet, reference numeral 4 denotes a coupled roller for pressing the sheet 9 to the feeding roller 30, reference numeral 5 denotes a first ejecting roller, reference numeral 6 denotes a second ejecting roller, reference numeral 7 denotes a carriage which is mounted with a recording head (recording means) 7a and performs main scanning, and reference numeral 8 denotes the exterior of the apparatus. (col. 3, lines 34-42) Further, reference numeral 2c denotes a fitting shaft adapted to be received by the fitting hole 1c of the main tray 1. (col. 5, lines 57-58)

In the medium tray of the invention recited in claim 1, the folding member includes the guide member for guiding the record media toward the image recording apparatus and pressing from above backside surfaces facing upward of the record media thus folded.

In *Nishiberi*, there is no description or suggestion regarding the folding member including the guide member for guiding the record media toward the image recording apparatus and pressing from above backside surfaces facing upward of the record media thus folded. Accordingly, *Nishiberi* does not disclose all of the features of the invention recited in claim 1. Therefore, the invention recited in

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claim 1 is not anticipated by *Nishiberi*.

As recited in amended claim 29, a medium tray of the invention is attachable to an image recording apparatus. The medium tray comprises a depository protruding outside of the image recording apparatus to be exposed for depositing a plurality of record media; and a folding member provided at a rear portion of the depository. Further, the folding member includes a guide member for guiding rear portions of the record media to be folded toward the image recording apparatus with front side surfaces of the record media inward and pressing from above backside surfaces of the record media thus folded facing upward.

In particular, in the medium tray of the invention recited in claim 29, similar to claim 1, the folding member includes the guide member for guiding the record media toward the image recording apparatus and pressing from above backside surfaces facing upward of the record media thus folded.

As explained above, in *Nishiberi*, there is no description or suggestion regarding the folding member including the guide member for guiding the record media toward the image recording apparatus and pressing from above backside surfaces facing upward of the record media thus folded. Accordingly, *Nishiberi* does not disclose all of the features of the invention recited in claim 29.

Therefore, the invention recited in claim 29 is not anticipated by *Nishiberi*.

As recited in amended claim 13, a medium tray of the invention is attachable to an image recording apparatus for feeding a record medium one by one and recording an image on said record medium.

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The medium tray comprises a depository in which a plurality of the record media is loaded such that front and rear portions of the record media have different angles with respect to a feeding direction of the record media when the record media are in the depository; and a folding member provided at a rear portion of the depository such that rear portions of the record media in the depository are folded toward the image recording apparatus with upper surfaces of the record media inward.

Further, the depository includes a medium support for placing the front portions of the record media and a rear guide extending upwardly from a rear end of the medium support for guiding the rear portions of the record media upwardly and pressing from above backside surfaces facing upward of the record media. The medium support protrudes outside of the image recording apparatus from a side of the image recording apparatus to be exposed. The folding member is disposed at an upper portion of the rear guide. The folding member is composed of the rear guide and an upper guide extending from a top end of the rear guide toward a main body of the image recording apparatus such that the upper guide covers the rear guide.

In particular, in the medium tray of the invention recited in claim 13, the depository includes the rear guide extending upwardly from the rear end of the medium support for guiding the rear portions of the record media upwardly and pressing from above the backside surfaces facing upward of the record media.

Tamura has disclosed that a tray body 2 and a movable plate portion 10 can be folded each other. If there is sufficient space in an apparatus setting area, the movable plate portion 10 is opened, and cut paper is support by both a first mounting surface 3a

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and a second mounting surface 10a. If the apparatus setting area is limited, the movable plate portion 10 is closed and the occupying area of a feeder tray 1 is reduced. In this case, since an insertion port 16 is formed between the first mounting surface 3a and the second mounting surface 10a, paper feeding can be carried out even when the tray body 2 and the movable plate portion 10 are folded. (abstract)

In the medium tray of the invention recited in claim 13, the depository includes the rear guide extending upwardly from the rear end of the medium support for guiding the rear portions of the record media upwardly and pressing from above the backside surfaces facing upward of the record media.

In *Tamura*, there is no description or suggestion regarding the depository including the rear guide extending upwardly from the rear end of the medium support for guiding the rear portions of the record media upwardly and pressing from above the backside surfaces facing upward of the record media. Accordingly, *Tamura* does not disclose all of the features of the invention recited in claim 13. Therefore, the invention recited in claim 13 is not anticipated by *Tamura*.

As explained above, the cited references do not disclose all of the features of the invention recited in respective independent claims. Therefore, the invention recited in respective independent claims is not anticipated by any one of the cited references. Even through the cited references are combined, the invention is not obvious.

Reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited.

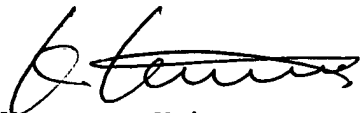
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The applicant has requested three-month extension of time.
The credit card payment form in the amount of \$1,860 (RCE \$810,
three-month extension \$1,050) has been attached herewith.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Kubotera', written over the printed name.

Kazunao Kubotera

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